

# **GA Information Pack:**

## **Submit a General Aviation Report (sGAR) &**

## **Universal Permission to Travel (UPT)**

November 2025

Future Borders & Immigration System (FBIS)



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# Introduction and Overview

 Purpose	To provide information regarding the Home Office Universal Permission to Travel (UPT) scheme, UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) and Electronic Visas (eVisas), and further information and guidance regarding the introduction of UPT response messages to the sGAR web service to help pilots, operators and agents conduct their checks.
 What is sGAR?	The sGAR web service can be used by persons responsible for international GA flights operating to and from the UK (including within the Common Travel Area) to submit information, in advance and online, about the flight and persons on board in compliance with the General Aviation (Persons on Board, Flight Information and Civil Penalties) Regulations 2024.

**The following information pack has been designed for pilots, operators and agents to provide an overview of these changes. This is split into the following 4 sections:**

Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D
The Universal Permission to Travel (UPT) scheme	The Submit a General Aviation Report (sGAR) Web Service and UPT Response Messages	Confirming if a passenger holds a <b>Valid Permission to Travel</b> to the UK	<b>Additional Information</b> to support pilots, operators and agents conduct their checks

***Please visit the Contents on the next page for further navigation guidance***

# Contents

Use the hyperlinks to navigate to the section of your choice

Section	Page
<u><a href="#">Section A – The Universal Permission to Travel (UPT) Scheme</a></u> • Universal Permission to Travel (UPT) • UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) • <b>NEW:</b> The End of the ETA Implementation Period • Electronic Visas (eVisa)	<u><a href="#">5</a></u>
<u><a href="#">Section B – The Submit a General Aviation Report Web User Service &amp; UPT Response Messages</a></u> • Current sGAR UPT Response Messages • <b>NEW:</b> The Introduction of “No Record of Valid Permission to Travel”	<u><a href="#">17</a></u>
<u><a href="#">Section C – Confirming your passenger has a valid permission to Travel to the UK</a></u> • Confirming if a Visa National has a Valid Permission • Confirming if a Non-Visa National has a Valid Permission • Passenger Handling Scenarios & Guidance	<u><a href="#">28</a></u>
<u><a href="#">Section D – Additional Information to support pilots, operators and agents conduct their checks</a></u> • Authority to Carry & Carriers’ Liability Scheme • Common Travel Area & Crown Dependencies • Help & Support • Feedback & Contact Information • Useful Links & Glossary	<u><a href="#">44</a></u>

# Section A

## The Universal Permission to Travel (UPT) Scheme

Universal Permission to Travel (UPT)	<u>6</u>
UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)	<u>9</u>
<u>NEW:</u> The End of the ETA Implementation Period	<u>12</u>
Electronic Visas (eVisas)	<u>15</u>

# Universal Permission to Travel (UPT)

# Universal Permission to Travel

The Home Office is developing a border and immigration system which is digital by default. Using a phased approach to implementing digital services, most passengers will have a secure and seamless digital journey when they interact with the UK's immigration system.

Our transformation to a digital border and immigration system is already underway with millions of people experiencing a fully digital process when applying to come to the UK, crossing the UK border, proving their identity and immigration status, and demonstrating their entitlements in the UK.

**The two key digital products that support this transformation are:**



## **ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation):**

- A digital permission to travel to the UK for people who want to visit the UK and who do not need a visa.
- ETAs enhance the Government's ability to screen travellers and prevent those who pose a threat from being able to travel, making the UK safer.



## **Electronic Visa (eVisa):**

- A digital immigration status, managed through an online account.
- eVisas are already used by millions of customers in the UK and provide evidence of an individual's immigration status securely and conveniently, when they come to visit, work, study or live in the UK.

# What does this mean for each passenger cohort?

To strengthen the UK's borders, those travelling to the UK (except British and Irish citizens) must seek permission to travel in advance; the type of permission will depend on the cohort of that passenger.

## British & Irish Citizens

### NO CHANGE

They do not need an ETA to travel to the UK. Their **passport** is evidence of their permission.

There will continue to be no routine immigration controls on journeys that start and end within the Common Travel Area.

## Visa Nationals\*

They are **TRANSITIONING TO DIGITAL ONLY PRODUCTS.**

Those already those already **granted permission to enter or remain** do not need an ETA to travel to the UK.

Their entry clearance, biometric residence document, other physical document or **eVisa** is evidence of their permission.

## Non-visa Nationals\*\*

Those who **do not need a visa**, entry clearance or other specified immigration status **will need an ETA to travel to the UK.**

The **ETA** is a permission to travel, **NOT a permission to enter. This will be decided on arrival.**

**\*Visa National:** these people require a visa to come to the UK, for any purpose.

**\*\*Non-visa National:** these people do not require a visa to come to the UK but will need an ETA if they don't already hold an entry clearance.

Persons responsible for GA flights must submit advance passenger information (API) to the Home Office via the Submit a General Aviation Report (sGAR) web service (or other approved means). The Home Office will then confirm whether the individual has a permission to travel to the UK.

# UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

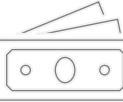
# What Is an ETA?



An ETA is advance permission to travel to, or transit through the UK, for those **who do not currently need to obtain a visa, or do not have a UK immigration status, regardless of whether they intend to disembark in the UK.**



An ETA is valid for **2 years or until the passport expires, whichever is sooner** and for **multiple journeys** to the UK within that period.



The most up to date fee for an ETA can be found here: [Apply for an electronic travel authorisation \(ETA\) - GOV.UK](#)



The application process is quick and light-touch via your mobile phone. Most applicants receive a response within three working days, with many receiving a result sooner.

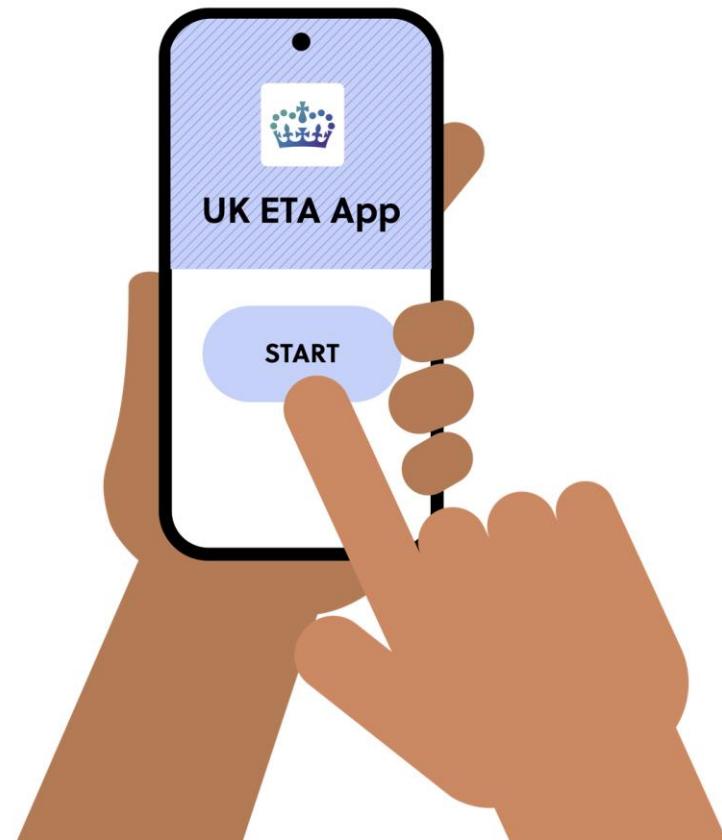


If successful, an ETA - **digital permission to travel** - will be granted.



Dual nationals must travel on the passport which they used to apply for their ETA, as their ETA will be linked to their passport.

To watch our 'What Is an ETA' video on YouTube, please click [here](#)



# Who Needs an ETA?



## Who needs an ETA?

- **Eligible non-visa nationals**
- Infants and children
- Tourism or visiting family and friends
- Business trips or studying as a visitor (for up to 6 months)
- Transiting through the UK (other than direct airside transit)
- T5 creatives



## Who does not need an ETA?

- They are a **British or Irish citizen**
- **Visa nationals.** They will continue to require a visa for travel and entry to the UK
- Those who have permission to live, work or study in the UK or Crown Dependencies (including settled or pre-settled status or right of abode)
  - They are travelling with a British overseas territories citizen passport
  - They are travelling directly to the Crown Dependencies (which are not part of the UK) without passing through the UK.
- Non-visa national residents of Ireland will not require an ETA to travel to the UK on a journey being undertaken within the Common Travel Area\* (CTA). (They will need an ETA to travel to the UK from outside the CTA) Electronic travel authorisation (ETA): residents of Ireland - GOV.UK
- Exempt individuals such as diplomats will still be exempt, this is not changing
- Non-visa national passengers transiting 'airside' on scheduled flights, who do not pass through UK border control before their connecting journey. This does not impact the TWOV Concession for visa-nationals and will be kept under review.
- Non-visa national pupils aged 18 or under travelling on organised school trips from France.

\*For further information on the CTA, please see [page 49](#)

# **NEW: The End of the ETA Implementation Period**

# The end of the ETA Implementation Period

From 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026, the ETA implementation period will end, and ETAs will be enforced for non-visa nationals

What does this mean for persons responsible for GA flights?

- If a non-visa national does not have an ETA, or other existing permission, they should not be allowed to board.
- From 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026, you must ensure non-visa nationals have a valid ETA, or existing permission, before carrying them to the UK.
- For a list of nationalities that can apply for an ETA, please click [here](#)



Until 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026, if a non-visa national does not have an ETA or other existing permission, continue to allow them to fly but encourage them to apply.

People travelling to the UK without a visa will need an  
**ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION**

Visit: [GOV.UK/electronic-travel-authorisation](#)



UK Government



# What does not change?



- Your **existing obligations under the Section 40 of the UK Immigration & Asylum Act 1999**.
- You will still need to make **face to document checks**, to ensure the person presenting the documents is the rightful holder and the document appears genuine and is valid. For more information on checking passports and travel documents click here [\*\*Guidance on examining identity documents \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)\*\*](#)
- All **visa nationals will still require visas**, and you should continue to check these as you do now. Follow this link to check [\*\*UK visa requirements \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)\*\*](#)
- Non-visa nationals who have permission to live, work or study in the UK or Crown Dependencies will not require an ETA as the visa is their permission.
- Existing and valid/In date documentary evidence will continue to be accepted.

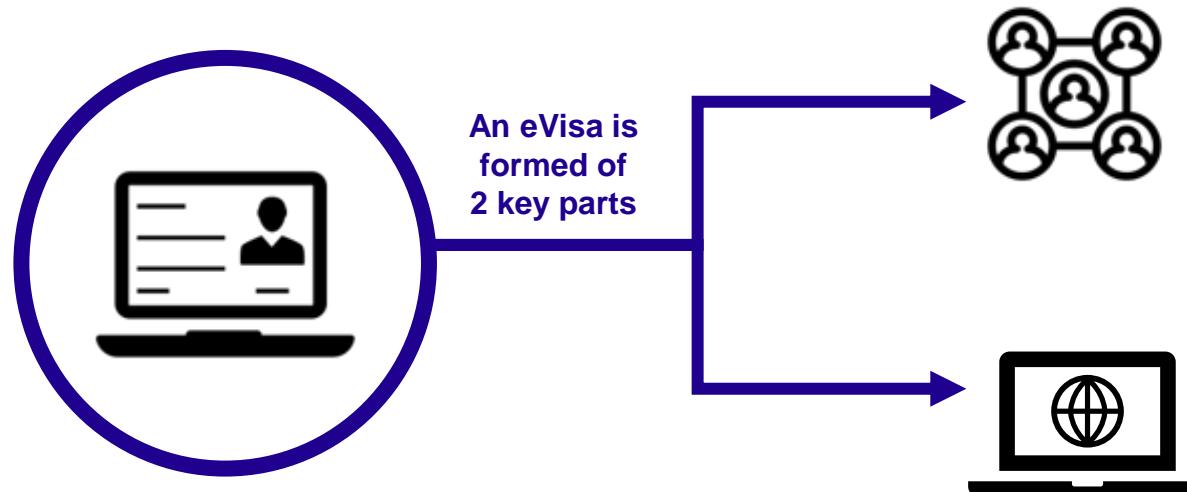
# Electronic Visas (eVisa)



# What is an eVisa?

To watch our 'What is an eVisa' video on YouTube, please click [here](#)

An eVisa is an online record of a customer's immigration status and the conditions of their permission to enter or stay in the UK. Customers will need to create a UKVI account to be able to access their eVisa. This eVisa **removes the requirement for physical documents** such as visa vignettes (physical visa sticker in passport), or the Biometric Residence Permits/Cards (BRP/Cs).



**Digital Status** – This is the customer's current Visa Status held on our Home Office Data Platform.

**A UKVI Account** – a secure login, enabling the customer to prove their immigration status.

- If Visa nationals have a valid physical visa product, they should continue to carry this when travelling to show carriers they have a valid permission to travel to the UK
- Customers with legacy stamps in their passports, such as 'no time limit' stamps, can continue to use these for travel as today but are being encouraged to transition to an eVisa.
- For further information on Visa Requirements, please click here: [UK visa requirements](#)

# Section B

## The Submit a General Aviation Report (sGAR) Web Service & UPT Response Messages

Current sGAR UPT Response  
Messages

18

NEW: The Introduction of “No  
Record of Valid Permission”

24

# Current sGAR UPT Response Messages

# Current UPT Responses

There are currently two responses which pilots, operators, and agents will receive via sGAR to help conduct pre-departure checks.

UPT Response Status	Action
<b>VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL</b> 	<p>This confirms that the individual has a digital immigration permission and can board if they have a valid passport or travel document and that the passport or travel document presented is genuine and that the person is the rightful holder.</p>
<b>AUTHORITY TO CARRY GRANTED</b> 	<p>This means that you must check if this individual has a valid passport or travel document. For <u>visa nationals</u> you must also check for a valid immigration or exemption document. Follow this link to check <u>UK visa requirements (accessible version) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u></p> <p>You should conduct a manual check for an immigration permission by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Checking for a valid physical immigration document (such as a visa vignette or stamp etc.)</li><li>Or</li><li>- By using a sharecode which the individual can request from their UKVI account. Follow this link to access the service <a href="https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status">https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status</a></li></ul> <p><b>If the individual has no exemption or proof of physical or digital permission, you may contact the Home Office for advice by calling the UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub 0300 369 0610</b></p>

**Note: UPT response messages will only be received for inbound journeys to the UK**

# Demo Passenger Response Page

This demo page shows the new responses that are shown to help pilots, operators and agents conduct their checks.

Section 9 of 9

## Passenger Check

Each person in your journey will now be checked for permission to travel.

**!** You do not need to wait for this process to complete before submitting your GAR.

Status	Passenger	Permission to Travel
This process is now complete.		
	Tim Jones	<b>1</b> ► <a href="#">Valid permission to travel</a>
	Tom Jukes	<b>2</b> ► <a href="#">Authority to carry granted</a>

### Submit your GAR

By submitting this General Aviation Report you are confirming that, to the best of your knowledge, the information you are providing is correct and you have the explicit permission of the persons named in this report to submit information on their behalf.

**Submit GAR**

When passenger details are submitted, a permission to travel response message will appear next to each passenger's name. Pilots, operators and agents can click on the message to expand the text which will provide them with additional instruction on what action to take (as per [UPT Response Message table](#)).

**1** The Home Office has confirmed a valid permission to travel for the person. However, Passport or Travel Document checks still apply.

**2** You are required to check visas for Visa Nationals and travel documents (inc. passports) for all passengers.

### IMPORTANT

- British and Irish citizens:** their passport is their permission therefore face to passport checks are required
- Visa nationals** need a valid visa or exemption certificate
- All other nationalities** need an ETA

For guidance on how to submit a GAR, please watch our step-by-step demo video on the [sGAR Knowledge Hub](#)

# DO NOT BOARD

There may be individuals whose travel to the UK must be prevented, these are individuals in scope of the Authority to Carry Scheme 2023. In order to prevent travel, the pilot, operator or agent will receive a **telephone call and an email** from the **National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC)** informing them that they do not have authority to carry a specific individual to the UK.

The on-screen response message will remain the same, however the pilot, operator or agent must act on the advice and instructions given by the NBTC and they must not carry the individual to the UK.

Status	Passenger	Permission to Travel
This process is now complete.		
●	Tim Jones	▶ <a href="#">Valid permission to travel</a>
●	Tom Jukes	▶ <a href="#">Authority to carry granted</a>



## IMPORTANT

Pilots, operators and agents are expected to follow the on-screen permission to travel instructions unless they receive a call from the National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC) advising them not to board the individual.

Follow this link for further information [Authority to Carry Scheme 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

# Upcoming UPT Response Messages

This table shows the existing UPT responses and the upcoming responses that will be added to the sGAR web user service in due course.

Sector	Existing/ Upcoming	FBIS CODE	UPT Response	Brief Description
Board	Existing	0A	VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	The Home Office can find a valid permission to travel for the individual
Check	Upcoming	0B	NO RECORD OF VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	A manual check is needed to determine whether the individual has an immigration permission
	Existing	0Z	AUTHORITY TO CARRY GRANTED	A manual check is needed to determine whether the individual has an immigration permission if they require one
Error	Upcoming	0T	SYSTEM TIME OUT	A system error has occurred, and further instruction will be provided to explain how to proceed
	Existing	4Z	INSUFFICIENT DATA	A system error has occurred, and further instruction will be provided to explain how to proceed

Please visit the Introduction of 'No Record of Valid Permission' section [here](#) for further information

# Special Character Guidance

Please do not use any special characters as the upload of your GAR will be rejected. See guidance below for more information.

When entering **names**, please use the format displayed in the machine-readable zone (MRZ) on the passport (images below for reference).



Input Example: ZOE ANGELA

On



## Examples of Unacceptable Characters:

&	"	¢	€	£	¥	©	®	™	‰	µ	·	•	…	'	"	§	¶	฿	
<	>	«	»	`	'	“	”	,	„	<	>	≤	≥	-	-	-	-	¤	
“	¡	¿	^	~	°	-	±	÷	/	×	1	2	3	¼	½	¾	f	∫	Σ
∞	√	≈	≠	≡	∏	¬	∩	∂	‘	,	a	o	t	‡	À	Á	Â	Ã	Ä
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Š	Ù	Ú	Û	Ü	Ý	Ÿ	Þ	à	á	â	ã	ä	å	æ	ç	è	é	ê	ë
ì	í	î	ï	ð	ñ	ò	ó	ô	õ	ö	ø	œ	š	ù	ú	û	ü	ý	þ
ÿ	þ	Þ	ð	æ	z	h	θ	í	κ	λ	μ	ν	Ξ	ó	π	ρ	σ	τ	γ
Φ	χ	ψ	Ω	α	β	γ	δ	ε	ζ	η	θ	ι	κ	λ	μ	ν	ξ	ο	π

**NEW: The Introduction of  
“No Record of Valid  
Permission to Travel”**

# **“No Record of Valid Permission to Travel”**

The ‘No Record of Valid Permission to Travel’ response will be introduced into the Submit a General Aviation Report Web User Service in two phases as part of a global switch-on for all UK inbound journeys.

## **Visa nationals**

**From 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026**, you will start to receive ‘No Record of Valid Permission to Travel’ responses for **visa nationals** for whom we have not been able to confirm a digital immigration status in Home Office systems.

Some visa national passengers may only have a physical document proving their permission to travel. In these cases, presenting a valid, genuine, physical proof of permission will remain satisfactory evidence of a passenger’s permission to travel to the UK.

## **Non-visa nationals**

**From 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026, ETA will be enforced**, and you will start to receive ‘No Record of Valid Permission to Travel’ responses for **non-visa nationals** for whom we have not been able to confirm a digital immigration status in Home Office systems.

Non-visa national passengers may have an alternative means of evidencing their permission to travel.

### **i There is no change for British or Irish Citizens**

British and Irish citizens are currently out of scope for automated permission checks and sGAR will return an ‘**Authority to Carry Granted**’ response as it does today.

# No Record of Valid Permission to Travel on sGAR

This shows the “No record of valid permission to travel” response and how it will appear on the Passenger Check page, plus required actions as part of pre-departure checks.

Section 9 of 9	Response message	Action						
<p>Passenger Check</p> <p>Passenger details have been sent for permission to travel checks.</p> <p>You must check each passenger has a <a href="#">genuine and valid passport or travel document</a> and that they are the rightful holder. You must also check each passenger's permission to travel status. You will remain liable for any penalties relating to a failure to adequately conduct these checks.</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Status</th><th>Passenger</th><th>What you need to do</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td> No record of valid permission to travel</td><td>Test Two Smith</td><td><p>This process is now complete</p><p><b>No record of valid permission to travel</b></p><p>You must check if this individual has a valid passport or travel document.</p><p>You must also check for a valid immigration or exemption document. Check <a href="#">UK visa requirements</a> (<a href="#">opens in new tab on GOV.UK</a>).</p><p>You should conduct a manual check for an immigration permission by:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Checking for a valid physical immigration document (such as a visa vignette or stamp etc.)</li></ul><p>Or</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• By using a share code which the individual can request from their UKVI account. <a href="#">Check their immigration status using a share code</a> (<a href="#">opens in new tab on GOV.UK</a>).</li></ul><p>If the individual has no exemption or proof of physical or digital permission, you may contact the Home Office for advice by calling the Border Force Carrier Support Hub 0300 369 0610 or +44 204 619 6020 from outside the UK.</p></td></tr></tbody></table>	Status	Passenger	What you need to do	 No record of valid permission to travel	Test Two Smith	<p>This process is now complete</p> <p><b>No record of valid permission to travel</b></p> <p>You must check if this individual has a valid passport or travel document.</p> <p>You must also check for a valid immigration or exemption document. Check <a href="#">UK visa requirements</a> (<a href="#">opens in new tab on GOV.UK</a>).</p> <p>You should conduct a manual check for an immigration permission by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Checking for a valid physical immigration document (such as a visa vignette or stamp etc.)</li></ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• By using a share code which the individual can request from their UKVI account. <a href="#">Check their immigration status using a share code</a> (<a href="#">opens in new tab on GOV.UK</a>).</li></ul> <p>If the individual has no exemption or proof of physical or digital permission, you may contact the Home Office for advice by calling the Border Force Carrier Support Hub 0300 369 0610 or +44 204 619 6020 from outside the UK.</p>	<p><b>!</b></p> <p><b>NO RECORD OF VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL</b></p>	<p>You must check if this individual has a valid passport or travel document.</p> <p>You must also check for a valid immigration or exemption document. Follow this link to check <a href="#">UK visa requirements (accessible version) - GOV.UK</a> (<a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>You should conduct a manual check for an immigration permission by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Checking for a valid physical immigration document (such as a visa vignette or stamp etc.)</li><li>• By using a share code which the individual can request from their UKVI account. Follow this link to access the service <a href="https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status">https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status</a></li></ul> <p><b>If the individual has no exemption or proof of physical or digital permission, you may contact the Home Office for advice by calling the Border Force Carrier Support Hub 0300 369 0610 or +44 204 619 6020 from outside the UK</b></p>
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## What does this mean for Pilots, Operators and Agents?

- The passenger's travel permission must be confirmed before they are allowed to board
  - **For Visa Nationals:** Conduct manual check for permission to travel
  - **For Non-visa Nationals:** The individual must apply for an ETA, or provide other valid evidence of UK immigration Status
- For further guidance visit “[Confirming your passenger has a valid permission to travel to the UK](#)”

# System Time Out

On **28th January 2026**, we will also be introducing the '**System Time Out**' response. This will be sent when Home Office systems are taking longer than expected to respond to a permission check request from a pilot, operator or agent.

## If you receive a 'System Time Out' Response:

1. Make an **initial resubmission attempt**. This will likely resolve the issue.
2. If this and any subsequent resubmission attempts are unsuccessful, pilots, operators and agents should make a final **resubmission attempt**
3. If you still receive a 'System Time Out' response at or later than 2 hours before the expected time of departure, the **passenger may be boarded** and there will be no carrier liability for their permission to travel.

However, you must still ensure that their travel document is valid, genuine and held by the rightful owner.

Digital permission to travel	Passenger	What you need to do
System time out	James Smith	<p>You should resubmit their digital permission to travel checks</p> <p>▼ <a href="#">Help with what to do for system time out</a></p> <p>If the GAR was submitted at 2 hours before the expected time of departure, no resubmission attempts are required. If the GAR was submitted earlier and on receipt of a 'system time out' response for a passenger, a resubmission attempt for that passenger should be made, this should result in the receipt of a successful permission to travel response.</p> <p>If a 'system time out' response is received at or later than 2 hours before the expected time of departure, then the passenger may be boarded. There will be no <a href="#">section 40</a> liability if the passenger is subsequently found not to hold a valid permission to travel.</p>



For technical support, contact the sGAR technical support team on: [GARsupport@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:GARsupport@homeoffice.gov.uk)

# Section C

## Confirming if a passenger holds a Valid Permission to Travel to the UK

Confirming if a Visa National has a Valid Permission	<u>29</u>
Confirming if a Non-Visa National has a Valid Permission	<u>32</u>
Passenger Handling Guidance & Scenarios	<u>34</u>

# Confirming if a Visa National has a Valid Permission

# Confirming if a Visa National has a valid permission

Most individuals with an eVisa should receive a “Valid Permission to Travel” message, and where this is received you can rely on this without asking for further evidence, but if you don’t receive this message, pilots, operators and agents should take the following steps

Passenger information uploaded to sGAR



## UPT Response: Valid Permission to Travel

**This means...**

- The Home Office has confirmed a **valid permission to travel** for the individual
- This is an eVisa linked to the individual's travel document
- Pilots, operators and agents are not required to do any additional immigration.

Passport and person checks still apply.

## UPT Response: No Record of Valid Permission to Travel\*

There are 4 steps which pilots, operators and agents can take to ensure that the individual holds the correct permission, of which **only one needs to be satisfied**. The recommendation is that they are checked in the following order:

- Check if the individual has **valid physical evidence** of their permission to travel. This may include a valid visa vignette or a stamp in a passport as per the current process.
- If the individual has a newly issued passport, **they may not have linked it to their UKVI account**. The passenger may be able to use *Update my Details* to self-resolve.
- The individual can provide you with a share code and you can use the **View & Prove service** to check their permission online (Click [here](#) for further guidance)
- You can contact the **Carrier Support Hub** to verify the individual's permission (Click [here](#) for further guidance)

*\*Note: Until 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Visa Nationals will continue to receive the “Authority to Carry Granted” message*

# How to check an immigration status using a share code?

Where a 'Valid Permission to Travel' message is not received, and the passenger does not hold a valid visa vignette sticker or other physical document evidencing their permission to travel, pilots, operators and agents should use the online [View and Prove immigration status service](#) on GOV.UK to confirm the passenger holds a permission.



## To check a share code and confirm the passenger has a valid permission to travel to the UK:

The passenger should generate a share code through the [View and Prove Immigration Status service](#) on GOV.UK and present it to their carrier.

## Pilots, operators and agents should:

- Visit [Check someone's immigration status: use their share code - GOV.UK](#)
- Enter the passenger's share code and their date of birth

Pilots, operators and agents will be able to see the passenger's name, immigration status and validity dates, and a summary of the conditions of their permission to enter or stay in the UK.

Please note that the [View and Prove profile](#) will only show **one nationality** for passengers with dual nationality. They may be travelling on the passport of their other nationality.

Check someone's immigration status

Beta This is a new service – your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

Back

### Their immigration status

Name	John Doe
Date of birth	27 November 1980
Nationality	FRA
Status	Permission to stay
Valid from	1 October 2021
Valid until	30 April 2026

**Summary of what they can do in the UK**

They can:

- live in the UK until 30 April 2026
- study - subject to [Academic Technology Approved Scheme \(ATAS\) conditions](#) once they are 18 or over
- use the National Health Service (NHS) in a similar way to permanent UK residents
- access a current account with a bank or building society in the UK
- travel in and out of the country

**Things they cannot do**

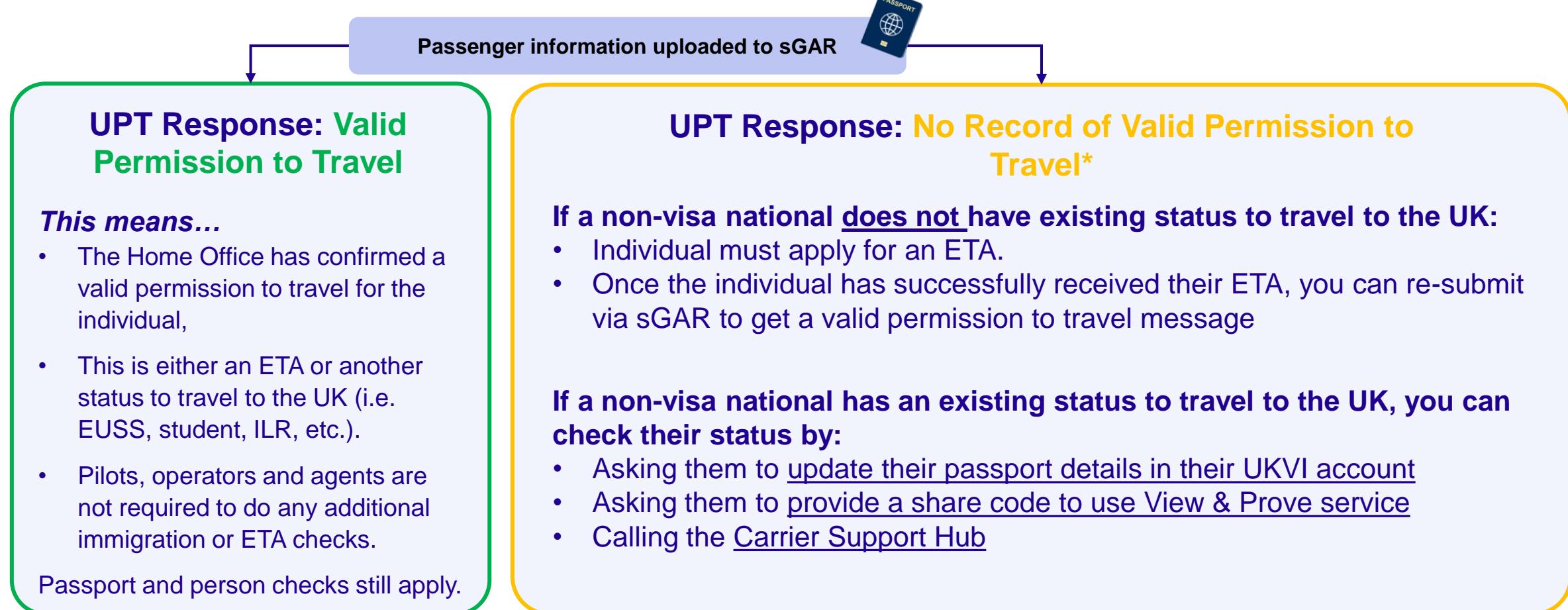
They cannot access [public funds](#)

To watch our 'How to view and confirm someone's immigration status' video on YouTube, please click [here](#)

# Confirming if a Non-Visa National has a Valid Permission

# Confirming if a Non-visa National has a valid permission

Most individuals with a Valid Permission should receive the “Valid Permission to Travel found” message, which can be relied upon without asking for further evidence, but if you don’t receive this message, pilots, operators and agents must take the following steps



*\*Note: Until 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026, Non-visa Nationals will continue to receive the “Authority to Carry Granted” message.*

# Passenger Handling Guidance & Scenarios

# Passenger Handling: Visa Nationals

Passenger Type	Current UPT Response	UPT Response (From 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2026)	What this means for pilots, operators and agents	Permission Result
<b>Visa National</b> with a digital permission linked to the Passport/Travel document that they are travelling on	VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	This means that the Home Office can confirm a valid digital permission to travel for the individual which is linked to the passport/travel document that they are travelling on. Pilots, operators and agents are not required to check for physical visas, but passport or travel document checks still apply.	Passenger has permission to travel as confirmed by UPT response
<b>Visa National</b> with a valid, genuine exemption or physical evidence such as the examples below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Biometric residence cards (BRCs)</li> <li>Ink stamps in passports, or other documents e.g. letters with stamps on</li> <li>Vignette stickers in passports</li> </ul>	AUTHORITY TO CARRY GRANTED	NO RECORD OF VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	This means that the Home Office has not confirmed a digital permission to travel. Pilots, operators and agents must check the individual's physical exemption certificate or physical permission as well as passport or travel document checks.	Passenger has permission to travel following physical document checks

Checks must be done on all passport/travel document that are presented to ensure they are genuine and valid, and that the person is the rightful holder.

# Passenger Handling: Visa Nationals

Passenger Type	Current UPT Response	UPT Response (From 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2026)	What this means for pilots, operators and agents	Permission Result
<b>Visa National</b> whose digital permission is not linked to the Passport/Travel document that they are travelling on and has no exemption or physical evidence.			<p>This means that the Home Office has not confirmed a digital permission for the individual. If the individual does not have an exemption or physical proof of their permission, they should create a UKVI digital account (if they have not done so already) to access their eVisa, and this can be used to prove their rights to live or work in the UK.</p> <p>The individual should then be able to use the Share Code checking service via GOV.UK to provide evidence of their immigration status.</p> <p>If they are unable to provide evidence, pilots, operators and agents may call the Carrier Support Hub for advice.</p>	<b>Valid Permission to Travel Confirmed via share code or Carrier Support Hub</b>
<b>Visa National</b> has no exemption certificate or physical evidence of permission and is unable to provide evidence of a digital permission and the Carrier Support Hub advise that the Home Office has no record of their immigration status.	<b>AUTHORITY TO CARRY GRANTED</b>	<b>NO RECORD OF VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL</b>	<p>This means that the Home Office has not found a digital permission for the individual. If the individual does not have an exemption or physical proof of their permission.</p> <p>The individual should be able to use the Share Code checking service via GOV.UK to provide evidence of their immigration status.</p> <p>If they are unable to provide evidence, pilots, operators and agents should call the Carrier Support Hub for advice.</p>	<b>If Permission to Travel has not been confirmed, pilots, operators and agents may be liable for Carriers Liability charge if they carry the individual</b>

Checks must be done on all passport/travel document that are presented to ensure they are genuine and valid, and that the person is the rightful holder.

# Passenger Handling: Non-Visa Nationals

Passenger Type	Current UPT Response	UPT Response (From 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026)	What this means for pilots, operators and agents	Permission Result
<u><b>British and Irish Citizens</b></u>	AUTHORITY TO CARRY GRANTED	AUTHORITY TO CARRY GRANTED	Their passport is their permission. They can board if they have a valid passport or travel document, if the passport or travel document presented is genuine and valid, and that the person is the rightful holder.	Passenger has permission to travel following physical document checks.
<u><b>Non-Visa Nationals</b></u> who have a valid ETA or other digital permission linked to the Passport/Travel document that they are travelling on.	VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	This means that the Home Office has confirmed a valid ETA or other digital permission for the individual which is linked to the passport/travel document that they are travelling on.	Passenger has permission to travel following physical document checks.
<u><b>Non-Visa Nationals</b></u> who do not hold an ETA or other digital permission	AUTHORITY TO CARRY GRANTED	NO RECORD OF VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	<p>This means that the Home Office has not confirmed a digital permission to travel. From <b>25<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>, you will be liable for ensuring that non-visa nationals <b>have an ETA</b> or existing permission when travelling to UK.</p> <p>Pilots, operators and agents should ensure eligible visitors hold a valid ETA or existing UK Immigration Status before allowing them to board.</p>	Passenger has permission to travel following a successful ETA Application and physical document checks  Passenger not allowed to board having not received a valid ETA

Checks must be done on all passport/travel document that are presented to ensure they are genuine and valid, and that the person is the rightful holder.

# Passengers

Once ETA is enforced, all passengers, except British and Irish nationals, will require an immigration permission to travel to the UK.

This means:

**Visa nationals** travelling to the UK will require a visa/valid immigration permission, or exemption as they do now.

**Non visa nationals** who do not already hold a visa, other valid immigration permission, or exemption, will be required to have a valid ETA to travel to the UK.



# Passenger Handling: Dual Nationals

British and Irish National Citizens who are also dual nationals of another country:

- **Do not require an ETA**, regardless of whether their other nationality would typically qualify
- Should prove their permission to travel by holding a **British passport or other passport containing a Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode**.

If a passenger **holds a valid genuine British passport or another passport containing a genuine Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode**, this may be accepted as permission to travel.



For further information, visit [Electronic travel authorisation \(ETA\): guide for dual citizens - GOV.UK](#)

- Irish citizens who are also dual nationals should prove their permission to travel by holding an Irish passport or passport card. If a passenger holds a valid genuine Irish passport or passport card, this may be accepted permission to travel.
- In all cases, carriers should continue to ensure that any British or Irish documents held by passengers are genuine and held by the rightful holder.

**Checks must be done on all passport/travel documents that are presented to ensure they are genuine and valid, and that the person is the rightful holder.**

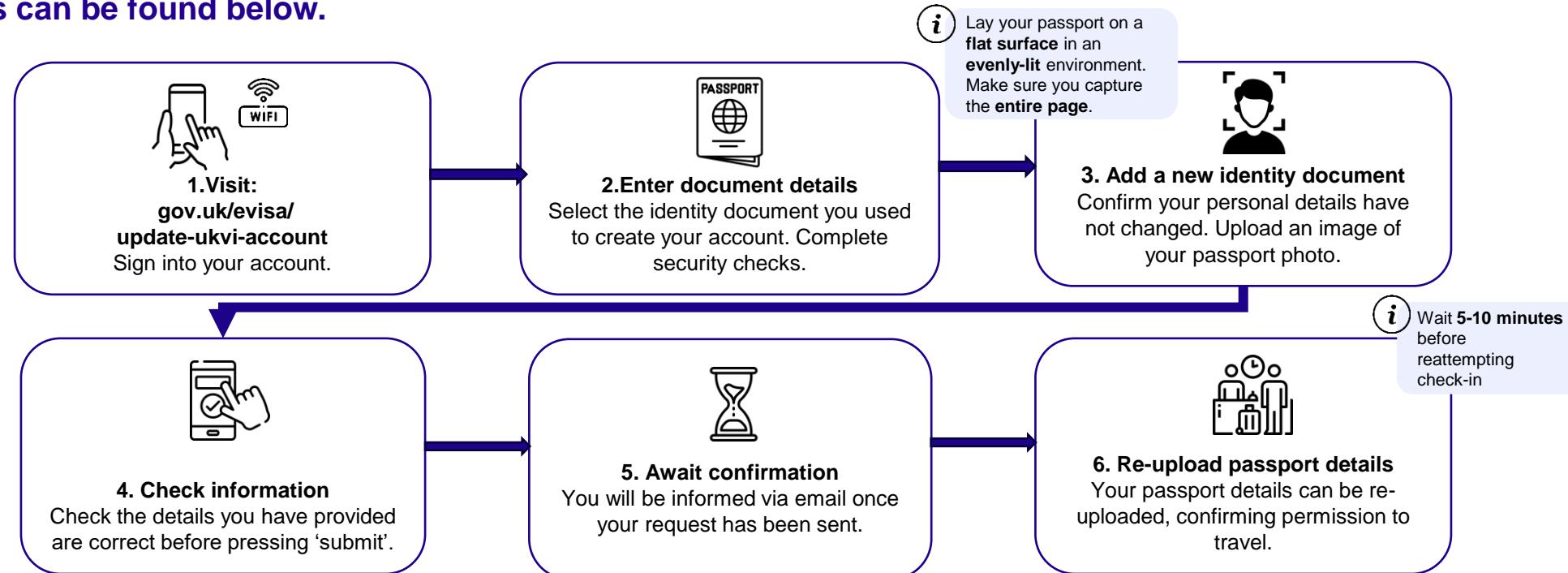
# Passenger Handling: Status under EUSS

Scan here to access  
"Update My Details."



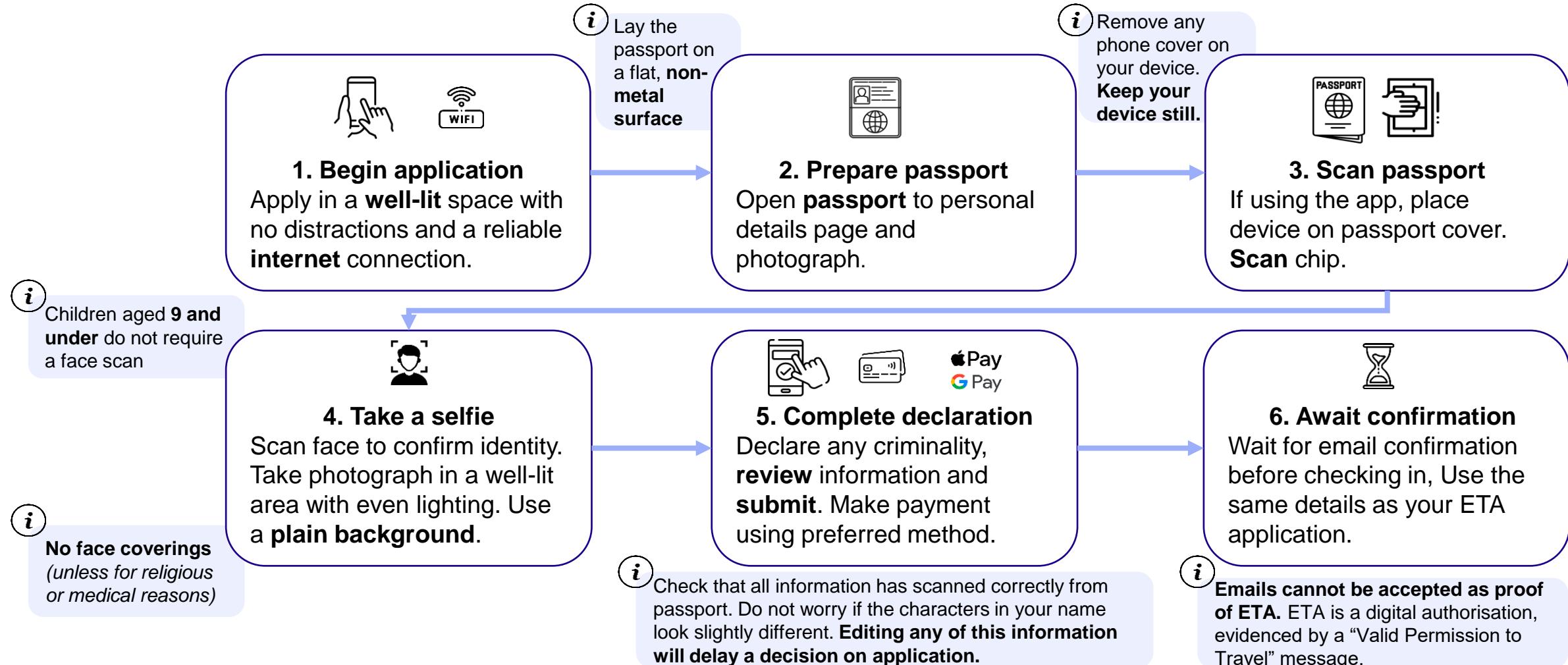
EEA and Swiss citizens granted settled or pre-settled status under the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) already have a UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) account and have been issued with [an eVisa](#).

- This status will automatically be confirmed back via the “**Valid permission to Travel**” message, provided the individual keeps their travel document/s details up to date in their UKVI account.
- If a passenger with EUSS receives a “**No record of Valid Permission to Travel**”. They can use their UKVI account to update their travel document details or use the view and prove service to generate a share code. **Guidance on “Update my Details can be found below.**



# UK ETA: Application Guidance

If a non-visa national does not hold a valid ETA or other digital permission and must apply, they can use the following guidance to direct the passenger on how to make their application



# Crew

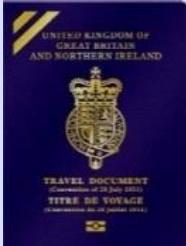
- Some crew are covered by s8(1) of Immigration Act 1971 legislation.
- British and Irish citizens do not need to apply for any additional permission to travel to the UK and should continue to travel using their valid British or Irish passports.
- Crew employed or engaged to bring aircraft, passengers or cargo to the UK and who are operating into and out of the UK as crew do not require an ETA as they are exempt from the requirement to obtain leave to enter. This only applies where the crew members are departing from the UK within 7 days.
- Crew members are defined as 'all people who are employed in the working or service of an aircraft, including the captain'. This does not include ground crew or security guards. For further guidance, visit: [Aircrew: CRM02 - GOV.UK](#)
- Non-visa nationals intending on visiting the UK, and who are not employed or engaged to bring aircraft, passengers or cargo to the UK, will require an ETA.
- Visa nationals intending on visiting the UK will continue to require a visit visa.



# Home Office Travel Documents

Customers may travel on the following UK Home Office issued travel documents without carrying another form of permission.

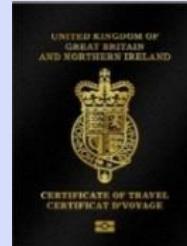
- 1) 1951 UN Convention Travel Document for Refugees (Blue)



- 2) 1954 Convention Travel Document for Stateless individuals (Red):



- 3) Certificate of Travel (Black):



From 28th January 2026, pilots, operators and agents will receive a **"No Record of Valid Permission to Travel" response**, which they can accept, provided they can satisfy themselves that the document is genuine, and that the individual is the rightful holder.

From 25th February 2026, pilots, operators and agents will receive a **"Valid Permission to Travel" response** and should use this as **evidence that a passenger has a valid UK immigration status** and no further visa (permission to travel) checks are necessary.

For further advice on a passenger's permission to travel, pilots, operators and agents should contact the **24/7 UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub** on **+44 300 369 0610** or **+44 204 619 6020**



This advice does not apply to Refugee, Stateless or other travel documents issued by other countries. To ensure the existence of a permission for holders of these documents, you will continue to need evidence of a proof of permission, either by receipt of a 'Valid Permission to Travel' response message via sGAR, or sight of a physical confirmation of permission such as a visa vignette.

# Section D

**Additional Information to support pilots,  
operators and agents conduct their checks**

Authority to Carry & Carriers' Liability Scheme	<u>45</u>
Common Travel Area & Crown Dependencies	<u>48</u>
Help and Support	<u>51</u>
Feedback & Contact Information	<u>54</u>
Useful Links & Glossary	<u>56</u>

# Authority to Carry & Carriers' Liability Scheme

# Authority to Carry Scheme

The submission of advance passenger information (API) enables the operation of the UK's Authority to Carry Scheme 2023. This Scheme is a border security measure intended to prevent the travel of certain individuals where it is in the public interest.

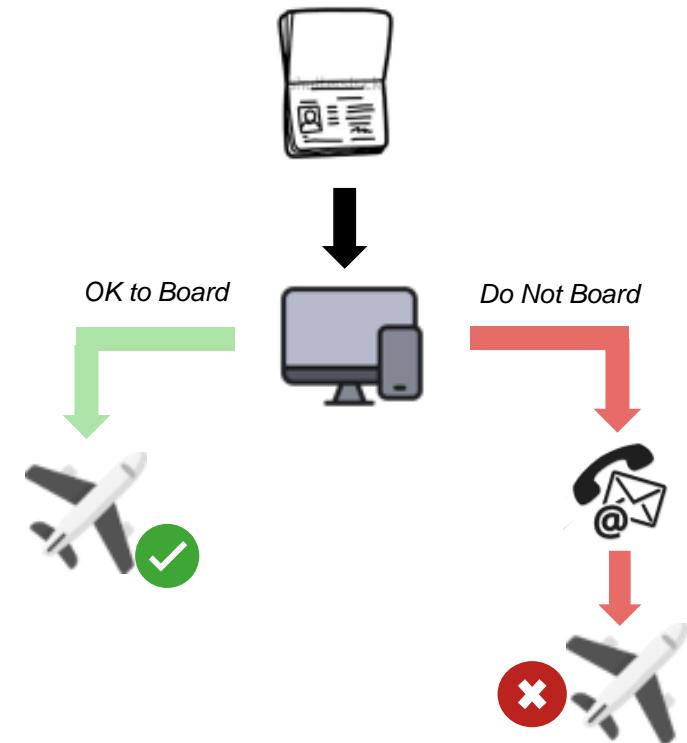
Individuals in scope of the Scheme include those who;

- Are the subject of a deportation order
- Have been excluded from the UK
- Are travelling on a document reported as lost or stolen
- Whose visa or ETA has been cancelled or revoked

In the event an individual in scope of the Scheme is identified as intending to travel the Home Office will contact the pilot, operator or agent to refuse them authority to carry that individual to the UK. The individual must be offloaded. Failure to comply with a refusal of authority to carry may result in a civil penalty.

Further information about the Scheme and its scope can be found here: [Authority to Carry Scheme 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/schemes/authority-to-carry-scheme-2023).

A guide on the operation of the Scheme has been made available on gov.uk.



# Carriers' Liability Scheme

**Please note: The Carriers' Liability Scheme applies to pilots, operators and agents**

**The Carriers' Liability (CL) scheme is changing to support the new UPT requirement (including the ETA scheme) and the transition to digital permissions.**

- Alongside the enforcement of ETA, it will extend the scope of permission checks to include non-visa nationals. The operator should already be undertaking identity and document checks on all passengers' travel documents to ensure that they are genuine and held by the rightful owner and checking that visa nationals hold a valid permission, in either digital or physical form.
- UPT messaging means that, in most cases, the Home Office confirm to an operator when passengers hold a valid digital permission to travel.
- If the Home Office is unable to confirm a passenger's status, the operator should carry out a manual check for evidence of a valid permission or exemption. Once ETA is enforced, the scheme will provide for penalties to be issued to the operator responsible for carrying both visa and non-visa nationals to the UK who are inadequately documented or do not have valid permission. Currently this is only the case for visa nationals.
- Border Force will remain responsible for notifying operators of potential liability for CL penalties where they may have carried passengers without a permission.

Further guidance on conducting CL checks can be found here: [Charging procedures: a guide for carriers \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#). This guide will be updated to include advice on checking digital-only immigration products.

# Common Travel Area & Crown Dependencies

# Common Travel Area

The Common Travel Area (CTA) is an administrative arrangement between the UK, Ireland and the Crown Dependencies (Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey) which is implemented in UK domestic law in statute. The CTA was developed to facilitate the principle of free movement for British and Irish citizens between the UK, Ireland and the islands and to ensure that British and Irish citizens continued to benefit from a mutual enjoyment of rights. Under the CTA, British and Irish citizens can move freely and reside in either jurisdiction.

There will continue to be no routine immigration controls on intra CTA journeys with no immigration controls on the Ireland-Northern Ireland land border, but, as now, all individuals who travel to the UK will need to do so in line with the UK's immigration framework. For non-British, non-Irish nationals this will include the requirement to have valid permission to travel, whether from a visa or an Electronic Travel Authorisation (once introduced).

**Non-visa national residents of Ireland will not require an ETA to travel to the UK on a journey being undertaken within the Common Travel Area (CTA). They will need an ETA to travel to the UK from outside the CTA.**



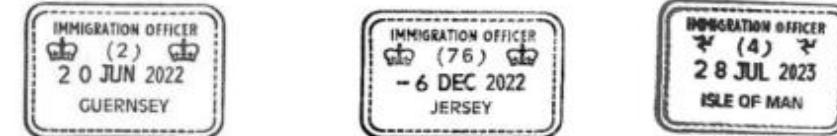
# Crown Dependencies

The Crown Dependencies are comprised of the **Bailiwick of Jersey**, the **Bailiwick of Guernsey (which includes Herm, Sark and Alderney)** and the **Isle of Man**. The Border Authorities of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man Immigration Service grant leave to remain using wet ink stamps. Examples of the individual stamps are shown below:



Passengers returning to Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man with extant conditions will have one of the above stamps with a date stamp in the middle AND a stamp detailing their conditions of stay. The wet ink stamps are only for in country grants of further leave.

**First time travellers (to all jurisdictions) are issued a vignette, the same as the UK and will be issued with one of the following stamps on arrival:**



Any leave to enter or remain (granted by a wet ink stamp in the passenger's passport), by the Immigration Authorities of Jersey, Guernsey, or the Isle of Man, is also valid for the UK and visa national passengers do not need a separate visa to enter the UK or to travel through the UK to either Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man until further notice.

Crown Dependency EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) customers are issued a physical letter by the relevant island authority. Carriers are advised to accept the physical letter as proof of their EUSS status. These customers will not have a vignette or wet-ink stamp in their passport.

For further advice on a passenger's permission, carriers should contact the **24/7 UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub** on **+44 300 369 0610** or **+44 204 619 6020**, or via email: [CSHenquiries@contactus.homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:CSHenquiries@contactus.homeoffice.gov.uk)

# Help and Support

# User Support Scenarios

## Technical Support

For technical support, pilots, operators, and agents should **contact the sGAR technical support team** via email:



[GARsupport@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:GARsupport@homeoffice.gov.uk)

## Urgent Queries

If you have an urgent query about passengers who are about to board or travel, **contact frontline Border Force teams**.

## Permission to travel checks

If you have a non-technical UPT query, **contact the UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub** via telephone:



0300 369 0610 or +44 204 619 6020 from outside the UK

The Carrier Support Hub is available 24/7.

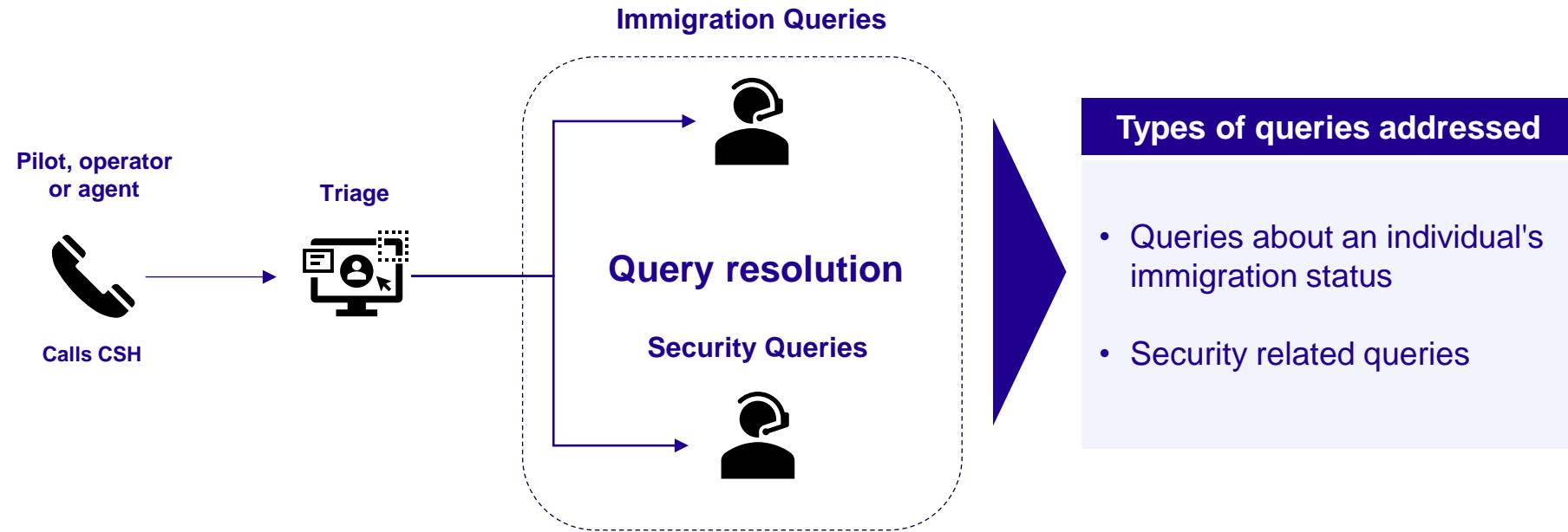
Scenario	Advice
A pilot, operator or agent has an <b>urgent concern about a passenger</b> and the flight is due to depart immediately	<b>Contact Border Force</b>
A pilot, operator or agent has a <b>technical query</b> regarding a GAR submission and the answer is not shown on the help page on sGAR.	Email <a href="mailto:GARSupport@homeoffice.gov.uk">GARSupport@homeoffice.gov.uk</a>
A pilot, operator or agent requires advice regarding a passengers <b>permission to travel</b> and the answer is not shown on the help page on sGAR.	<b>Contact UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub</b>

# UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub

If pilots, operators and agents require advice, the UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub, is a **24/7 support function** within the Home Office, to answer all queries related to a passenger's permission to travel to the UK.



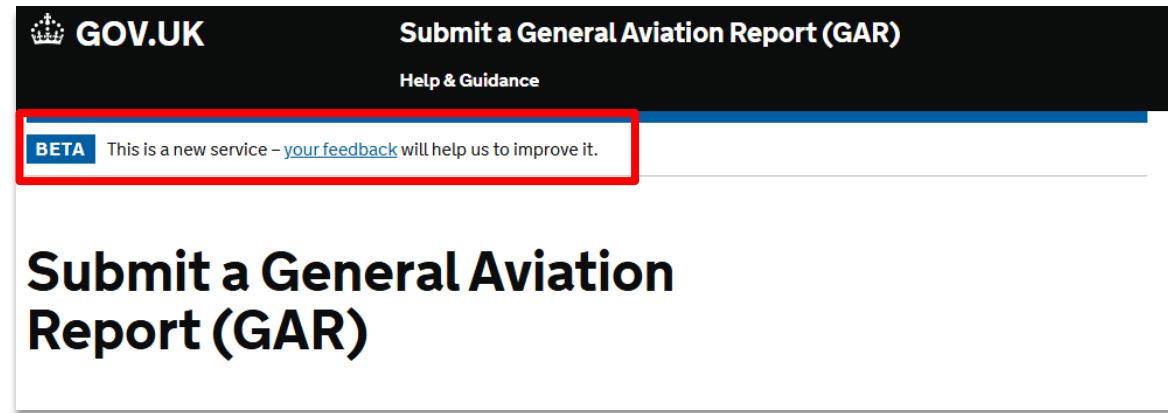
**Contacting the Carrier Support Hub via telephone (+44 300 369 0610 or +619 6020 from outside the UK)**



# Feedback & Contact Information

# Feedback & Contact Information

We welcome your feedback to help us improve the sGAR service. Please follow the 'feedback' link (highlighted below) on sGAR to submit a feedback survey



- The **sGAR Knowledge Hub**, hosts the latest information pack and guidance documents.
- Further engagement events will be scheduled and communicated in due course
- Additional changes, updates to sGAR and future engagement events will be communicated to you **via the sGAR mailbox (GARsupport@homeoffice.gov.uk)**

# Useful Links & Glossary

# Useful Links

Topic	Link	What does this link cover?
ETA	<a href="#">Apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) - GOV.UK</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who can get an ETA</li> <li>• Who does not need an ETA</li> <li>• What can &amp; cannot do with an ETA</li> <li>• How much it costs</li> <li>• How long it takes</li> </ul>
eVisa	<a href="#">Online immigration status (eVisa) - GOV.UK</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is an eVisa?</li> <li>• How do I access my eVisa?</li> <li>• How do I use my UKVI account?</li> <li>• Who needs an eVisa?</li> </ul>
	<a href="#">UK visa requirements (accessible version) - GOV.UK</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationals of countries and territories who need a visa to enter or transit the UK</li> <li>• Nationals of the countries and territories who need a visa to enter or transit the UK landside</li> </ul>
	<a href="#">View your eVisa and get a share code to prove your immigration status online - GOV.UK</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View your eVisa and get a share code to prove your immigration status online</li> </ul>
	<a href="#">Check someone's immigration status: use their share code - GOV.UK</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check someone's immigration status: use their share code</li> </ul>
Identity Documents	<a href="#">Guidance on examining identity documents</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance on examining identity documents</li> </ul>
Authority to Carry Scheme	<a href="#">Authority to Carry Scheme 2023 (accessible) - GOV.UK</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the Authority to Carry Scheme</li> <li>• Purpose of Scheme</li> <li>• Process and Liability</li> </ul>
Aircrew	<a href="#">Aircrew: CRM02 - GOV.UK</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation and aircrew</li> <li>• Identity documents and crew</li> <li>• Aircrew arriving as a crew member of an aircraft</li> <li>• When do aircrew need entry clearance?</li> <li>• Visa endorsement for crew joining a ship / plane</li> </ul>
sGAR Knowledge Hub	<a href="#">Home Office Brand Portal</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sGAR Information Pack &amp; Demo Video</li> <li>• ETA and eVisa Reference Guide</li> </ul>

# Glossary

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Term</b>
<b>API</b>	Advance Passenger Information
<b>ATC</b>	Authority to Carry
<b>BRP/C</b>	Biometric Residence Permit/ Cards
<b>BN(O)</b>	British National (Overseas)
<b>CLS</b>	Carrier Liability Scheme
<b>CTA</b>	Common Travel Area
<b>ETA</b>	Electronic Travel Authorisation
<b>EVW</b>	Electronic Visa Waiver
<b>eVisa</b>	Electronic Visa
<b>FBIS</b>	Future Border & Immigration System
<b>NBTC</b>	National Border Targeting Centre
<b>sGAR</b>	Submit a General Aviation Report
<b>UPT</b>	Universal Permission to Travel